upon receipt of the proposed findings and recommended decision of the hearing officer shall make a final decision whether the State Apprenticeship Council has adopted or implemented a plan in accordance with the equal opportunity requirements of this part.

- (5) If the Secretary determines to withdraw recognition, for Federal purposes, from the State Apprenticeship Council, the Secretary shall notify the State Apprenticeship Council of this determination. The Secretary shall also notify the State sponsors that within 30 days of the receipt of the notice the Department shall cease to recognize, for Federal purposes, each State apprenticeship program unless the State program sponsor requests registration with the Department. Such registration may be granted contingent upon finding that the State apprenticeship program is operating in accordance with the requirements of this part.
- (6) A State Apprenticeship Council whose recognition has been withdrawn pursuant to this part may have its recognition reinstated upon presentation of adequate evidence to the Secretary that it has adopted and implemented a plan carrying out the equal opportunity requirements of this part.

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[43 FR 20760, May 12, 1978, as amended at 49 FR 18295, Apr. 30, 1984]

§ 30.16 Hearings.

- (a) Within 10 days after receiving a request for a hearing, the Secretary shall designate a hearing officer. The hearing officer shall give reasonable notice of such hearing by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the appropriate sponsor (Federal or state registered), the State Apprenticeship Council, or both, as the case may be. Such notice shall include: (1) A reasonable time and place of hearing, (2) a statement of the provisions of this part, pursuant to which the hearing is to be held, and (3) a concise statement of the matters pursuant to which the action forming the basis of the hearing is proposed to be taken.
- (b) The hearing officer shall regulate the course of the hearing. Hearings shall be informally conducted. Every

party shall have the right to counsel, and a fair opportunity to present his or her case including such cross-examination as may be appropriate in the circumstances. Hearing officers shall make their proposed findings and recommended decisions to the Secretary upon the basis of the record before them.

§ 30.17 Intimidatory or retaliatory acts.

Any intimidation, threat, coercion, or retaliation by or with the approval of any sponsor against any person for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Executive Order 11246, as amended, or because he or she has made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated in any manner in any investigation proceeding, or hearing under this part shall be considered noncompliance with the equal opportunity standards of this part. The identity of complainants shall be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of this part, including the conduct of any investigation, hearing or judicial proceeding arising therefrom.

§30.18 Nondiscrimination.

The commitments contained in the sponsor's affirmative action program are not intended and shall not be used to discriminate against any qualified applicant or apprentice on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex.

§30.19 Exemptions.

Request for exemption from these regulations, or any part thereof, shall be made in writing to the Secretary and shall contain a statement of reasons supporting the request. Exemptions may be granted for good cause. State Apprenticeship Councils shall notify the Department of any such exemptions granted affecting a substantial number of employers and the reasons therefor.

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